

Message Text

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S/S-O: R. KUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046652

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR (DAVIS, AMB. NATHANIEL)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

1. LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR PEAL CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE FEB 27 TO DELIVER LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO PRESIDENT FORD. AMBASSADOR PEAL SAID THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT WAS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF US/LIBERIA "SPECIAL RELATIONS" IN WRITING LETTER WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD, BASED ON COMMUNICATION WITH MONROVIA, VOICES TOLBERT'S CONCERN'S OVER NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR DAVIS.

2. IN ACCEPTING LETTER, WHICH HE PROMISED TO TRANSMIT, BLAKE THANKED GOL FOR ITS DISCRETION IN COMMUNICATING ITS VIEWS ON DAVIS NOMINATION PRIVATELY, IN CONTRAST TO ASTONISHING BEHAVIOR OF OAU IN MAKING ITS VIEWS ON SAME SUBJECT PUBLICLY. BLAKE CHARACTERIZED OAU ACTION AS WORST POSSIBLE WAY TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN US AND AFRICA SINCE RESOLUTION AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY APPEARED DELIBERATELY TDESIGNED TO EMBARRASS PRESIDENT. BLAKE THEN NOTED SECRETARY HAD DEALT FULLY WITH OAU OBJECTIONS TO DAVIS NOMINATION IN HIS LETTER TO OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI WHICH HE HAD INSTRUCTED AF MISSIONS

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TO COMMUNICATE TO RESPECTIVE HOST GOVERNMENTS. IN REPLYING

TO QUERY AS TO WHETHER TOLBERT LETTER HAD BEEN WRITTEN PRIOR TO RECEIPT COPY OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO ETEKI, PEAL SAID HE DID NOT KNOW.

3. DURING ENSUING CONVERSATION, WHICH WAS CORDIAL, PEAL AGREED THAT ACTION TAKEN BY OAU AND PARTICULARLY PUBLICITY GIVEN TO ITS RESOLUTION WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE. HE "EXPLAINED" OAU ACTION BY ASKING THAT IT BE VIEWED IN "WIDER CONTEXT" OF INCREASING AFRICAN SENSE OF FRUSTRATION RESULTING FROM INABILITY OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON TO GAIN ASSESS TO USG POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS ON REAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING AFRICA. PEAL ADDED THAT DAVIS NOMINATION BROUGHT THESE FRUSTRATIONS TO CLIMAX PROVOKING OAU

RESOLUTION. IN CONCLUSION HE AGREED RESOLUTION WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE WAY OF PROCEEDING, BUT DESCRIBED IT AS VIRTUALLY INEVITABLE GIVEN AFRICAN MOOD.

4. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS: QUOTE: MY DEAR GREAT AND GOOD FRIEND: I RECALL WITH PLEASANT MEMORIES MY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND THE ADVANTAGE I TOOK OF THE SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY YOU AFFORDED ME FOR A DISCUSSION WITH YOU AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. NOT ONLY WERE OUR TALKS FREE AND FRIENDLY BUT THE WARMTH OF THE ATMOSPHERE AND THE SPIRIT IN WHICH THE TALKS WERE HELD TRULY UNDERScoreD THE HISTORIC LINKS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I TOOK THE LIBERTY, AS A FRIEND, TO LET YOU KNOW THE FEELING PREVALENT AMONG AFRICAN LEADERS AND PEOPLES TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT SHOWN ANY POSITIVE INTEREST IN US. WHILE I REALIZED AT THE TIME, AS I STILL DO, THAT IT WAS NOT WITHIN MY RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, THE PRIVILEGE I ASSUMED TO INFORM YOU OF THIS FEELING WAS BASED ON OUR FRIENDSHIP AND THE RESPONSIBILITY I FEEL WE SHARE AS LEADERS OF OUR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES AND IN OUR ONE WORLD.

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IN THIS SAME SPIRIT, I MUST CONFESS THAT SINCE OUR DISCUSSION IN NOVEMBER, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TRACE APPROPRIATE ACTS ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT CAN BE CONVINCINGLY TAKEN TO ASSURE AFRICANS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S GENUINE CONCERN FOR OUR WELFARE AND TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF OUR ASPIRATIONS.

IN THIS VEIN, PERMIT ME TO REFER TO THE RECENT PROPOSAL

TO APPOINT MR. NATHANIEL DAVIS TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS AT YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C. I DO SO, BECUASE HE IS CONSIDERED, AS THE RESULT OF THE EVALUATION OF HIS ATTITUDE AND ACTION , TO BE UNACCEPTABLE TO AFRICA; AND

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IT IS FURTHER FELT THAT HE IS INCONSIDERATE OF OUR ASPIRATIONS. THAT BEING THE CASE, HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A MAN MOST UNSUITABLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE AFRICAN PEOPLES. IN EFFECT, THE PROPOSAL HAS CREATED A PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION THAT BRINGS GREAT HARRASSMENT. AND ANNOYANCE TO OUR PEOPLES.

INDEED, IT IS TO BE REGARDED ONLY REASONABLE TO CONSIDER THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR AFRICANS TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN AND TRUST WHOMEVER YOU WILL APPOINT TO INTERPRET YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES WHATEVER THEY MAY BE.I THINK THAT THIS IS A GOOD BASIS UPON WHICH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CAN BE PROMOTED AND DEVELOPED PARTICULARLY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

AGAIN, I TAKE THE LIBERTY OF EXPRESSING DIRECT TO YOU IN THIS MANNER THE VIEWS AND SENTIMENTS OF OUR PEOPLES, BECAUSE OF THE CONTEXT IN WHICH I PLACE OUR RELATIONS AND IN THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL GIVE SAME YOUR TIMELY CONSIDERATION.

IN THE MEANTIME, IF MY ACTION IN THE PREMISES CAN BE CONSIDERED INTERFERRING IN AMERICAN AFFAIRS, I TRUST THAT YOU WILL FORGIVE ME.

WITH ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM AND
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BEST WISHES FOR YOUR PERSONAL WELL-BEING AND THAT OF MRS. FORD AND FOR THE CONTINUED PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. SINCERELY, W.R. TOLBERT, JR.

5. COPY OF LETTER WITH MEMCON GIVING GREATER DETAIL OF BLAKE/PEAL MEETING BEING POUCHED. INGERSOLL

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